



URBAN DISTRICT OF BEDLINGTONSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1944.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for 1944, concerning the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District.

This report is in rather more detail than those of recent years as the ban imposed for security reasons on the publication of figures of population etc. has now been removed.

The outstanding event of the year affecting the Health Department was the epidemic of diphtheria of which a description appears in Section F of this report.

The most urgent problem requiring to be tackled at present in the district, as in the rest of the country, is the housing shortage. Plans for the building of a substantial number of new houses are already well advanced and it is hoped that construction may begin before long.

I must express my gratitude for the consideration which has been extended to me by the members of the Council and for the support and assistance I have received from the staffs of the Sanitary Department and other departments of the Council, without which the difficult task of carrying on single-handed after the death of your late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Angus, might well have proved impossible.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.B. MCGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Bedlingtonshire.

August, 1945.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for 1944.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health ..)	
Medical Officer M. & C.W.)	Catherine B. McGregor,
Authority, Sunray Clinic..)	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer, Infectious)	
Diseases Hospital.....)	
Dental Officer (Part-time)..	G.E. Wilson, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M., L.D.S.
Ophthalmic Officer.....	Alex. MacRae, M.D., D.O.M.S. part-time, appointed April, 1941.
Obstetrical Consultants..... (E. Farquhar Murray, M.D., F.R.C.S.
(H.H. Evers, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.
(F.E. Stabler, M.D., F.R.C.S.
Health and Child (
Protection Visitors..... (Miss M. Bewick, S.R.N.
(Mrs. M. Robson, S.C.M. resigned 30th October, 1944.
(Miss M.H. Cook, S.R.N., S.C.M. appointed 1st November, 1944.
Sanitary)	
Meat)	Inspector..... R. M. Laverick, M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector	R.W. Cowans, appointed December 1939.
(additional).....	Joined H.M. Forces September 1940.
Offices of the M.O.H.....	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 287.
Offices of the Sanitary	Council Offices, Front Street,
Inspector.....	Bedlington.
Telephone.....	Bedlington 2214.
M.C.W. Centre and Sunray	South Parade, Guide Post,
Clinic.....	Choppington.
Telephone.....	Bedlington 2227.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BEDLINGTONSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1944.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres - 9,025.784.

Registrar General's estimate of
Resident population mid 1944 - 25,120.

Rateable value - £99,443.

One Penny rate produces - £414. 6s. 11d.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) - approx. 7,500.

Vital Statistics.

Births:-

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	551	287	264
Illegitimate	25	11	14

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 22.93

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	16	9	7
Illegitimate	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births - 46.35

<u>Deaths:-</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	293	162	131

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population - 11.66

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No.30 Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births	53.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	54.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	40.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	50
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4

The Registrar General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1944.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	4	3
6. Tuberculosis of resp: system.	2	3
7. Other forms of tuberculosis.	-	2
8. Syphilitic diseases.	-	-
9. Influenza.	-	-
10. Measles.	-	-
11. Acute polio-myel: and polio-enceph:	-	-
12. Acute inf: enceph:	1	-
13. Cancer of buc: cav: and oesoph:(M), uterus (F)	4	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	9	3
15. Cancer of Breast	-	4
16. Cancer of all other Sites.	10	16
17. Diabetes.	-	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	14	9
19. Heart disease.	39	27
20. Other diseases of circ. system	7	6
21. Bronchitis.	6	4
22. Pneumonia..	6	2
23. Other resp: diseases.	3	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	2	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.	2	2
26. Appendicitis.	2	-
27. Other digve. dis:	1	5
28. Nephritis.	6	2
29. Puerperal and post-abortion: sepsis.	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.	-	-
31. Premature birth.	5	5
32. Con; mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	4	6
33. Suicide.	1	-
34. Road traffic acc:	-	1
35. Other violent causes.	15	3
36. All other causes.	19	22
Total causes ...	162	131

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants	(Legitimate	14	16
under 1 year	(Illegitimate ...	-	1
	Totals	14	17

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1944.

The total number of deaths of children under one year was 30 the same total as in 1943. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 52.08 per 1,000 live births compared with 58.94 for the previous year.

The deaths of children under one month number 17, of which 12 occurred under one week, and of these 12 seven died as the result of premature birth.

The Registrar General's table SD.55 gives the infantile mortality rates as follows:-

For England and Wales 46 deaths per 1,000 live births.
For 126 Great Towns 52 deaths per 1,000 live births,
For 148 Smaller Towns (population 25,000 - 50,000) 44 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The infantile mortality rate for Shillingtonshire is thus considerably in excess of the average rate for similar areas throughout the country.

The following table shows the comparative mortality during the past years:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years.	5	2	2	Nil	4	1	4
Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	31	28	23	30	21	30	30
Infantile Mortality Rate.	68.6	66.67	51.69	70.8	50.7	58.94	52.08

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups under one year:-

INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1944.

Causes of Death	Total					Total				
	Und 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	under 1 mth	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	under 1 yr.
Prematurity	7	2	1	1	11	1	-	-	-	12
Birth Injury	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Anencephaly	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gastro enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	6
Tubercular Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Septicaemia	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pharyngeal abscess	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Congenital debility	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Convulsions.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	12	2	2	1	17	7	3	2	1	30

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council. The extent to which the facilities have been utilized is shown below:-

Specimen sent in by.	Specimen.	Pos.	Neg.
C.C.T.O.	Sputa for tubercle.	8	39
Medical Practitioners.	do.	9	129
M.O.H.	Throat swabs for C.diphtheria	39	276
Asst.School M.O.	do.	15	198
Medical Practitioners.	do.	71	149
Asst. School M.O.	Nazal swabs for C.diphtheria	-	8
M.O.H.	Milk samples for C.diphtheria	-	4
Medical Practitioners.	Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus	15	14

		Pos.	Neg.
Medical Practitioners.	Throat swabs for Vincent's Angina.	-	3
Medical Practitioners.	Faeces for organisms.	2	4
Medical Practitioners.	Blood for Widal.	-	4

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance vehicles 6 - Bedlington 2; Cambois 1; Choppington 1; Netherton 2.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

No change. Number of district nurses and mid wives - 8.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

As before.

HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

There is no hospital of either type in the district.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity & Child Welfare services continued to function on the same lines as in previous years, but, following on the sudden death of your Medical Officer of Health and the decision to ask your Assistant Medical Officer of Health to carry on single-handed as temporary M.O.H., it became necessary to enlist the help of the Northumberland County Council.

This was readily forthcoming and it was arranged that Assistant Medical Officers of Health employed by the County Council should attend at the Sunray, Child Welfare and Toddlers' clinics. Your own Medical Officer of Health continued to attend the clinic at Cambois and to act as anaesthetist at the Dental Clinics for the extraction of Toddlers' teeth.

For some time the Bedlingtonshire U.D.C. had been feeling the strain of the increasing financial burden resulting from the continuous expansion of the Maternity & Child Welfare services in this area with its relatively small population.

In the spring of the year, therefore, the Council resolved to invite the Northumberland County Council to take over the M. & C.W. services in the Shire and accordingly entered into negotiations with that Authority. An agreement acceptable to both sides was reached and at the end of the year all that remained to be done was

for the actual date of transfer to be fixed by the Ministry of Health. The transfer of services eventually took place on 14th February, 1945.

Maternity and Child Welfare clinics were held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons of each week at the M. & C.W. Centre, Guide Post. The Clinic at Cambois was open on the first Monday afternoon of each month.

Attendance of children up to 2 yrs. at M.C.W. Centre, Guide Post -
" " " " " 5 yrs. at Mawburn Tce., Cambois - 473
3,325

Milk Foods, etc.

Dried milk foods were sold at cost price during the year and the amount approximated £1,640. 19s. 6½d.

Vitamins such as Cod Liver Oil Emulsion, Virol, Numol, Marmite and Celin Tablets were also available.

Clinics for the pre-school child, aged 2 to 5 years.

The second Monday of each month at 2 p.m.

Attendances of children at M.C.W. Centre, Guide Post - 170.

Each child was examined by the Medical Officer in attendance, many being referred for inspection, and treatment if need be, to the Dental Officer at the dental clinic for pre-school children. Others have been referred to the Sunray Clinics for treatment by U.V. Light.

Children found to have unhealthy tonsils and adenoids were afforded the advantage of operative treatment (tonsillectomy) at the Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Newcastle, or the Knight Memorial Hospital, Blyth.

The Local Authority was responsible for the full maintenance of the children in either of these hospitals, the parents contributing to the cost according to an approved income scale.

Dental Clinic.

Dental clinics were held weekly for expectant mothers and pre-school children.

Number of expectant and nursing mothers who attended	68
" " pre-school children who attended	54
" " administrations of general anaesthesia	54
" " impressions taken	34

It was the invariable practice to perform extractions in pre-school children whilst they were under a general anaesthetic and also on their recovery to transfer them by ambulance from the clinic to their homes.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

Oculist - Mr. Alex MacRae.

No. of sessions 6

No. of children attending for the first time....16

No. of subsequent attendances by children.....51

The examinations were conducted by the oculist, the patients' eyes having for some days previously been treated by atropine drops and ointment, in order to facilitate the retinoscopy.

These pre-school children were referred via the toddlers' clinic by the Medical Officer or on the request of the local medical practitioners.

The conditions for which these children were seen were - squints or errors of refraction. In 21 cases lenses were prescribed by the oculist and the spectacle fitting was carried out by an optician who always accompanies the ophthalmologist.

This type of service, completed by the delivery of the spectacles in a few days, saved much time to parents by the elimination of several visits to central ophthalmic clinics in Newcastle, which would otherwise have been necessary.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

Clinics for the inoculation of pre-school children were held at the Child Welfare Centre, Guide Post on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 2 p.m. and at Mawburn Place, Cambois on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m. At these clinics 175 pre-school children completed the prescribed course of treatment.

In addition 148 pre-school children were inoculated during the year by general practitioners under the Council's scheme whereby each doctor is paid five shillings for each completed course of injections.

Antenatal Clinic.

Clinics - four sessions monthly as follows:

First Wednesday forenoons Dr. Waterhouse; First Wednesday afternoons Dr. Noble; Third Wednesday afternoons Drs. J. Brown & Reid; last Monday afternoons Drs. Lowry and H.S. Brown.

Number of women who attended 190

Number of attendances 432

References to Specialists: Any cases attending the antenatal clinic which presented any special difficulty were referred to obstetric specialists in Newcastle.

Home Helps.

It continued to be very difficult throughout the year to obtain the assistance of home helps, but three were supplied.

Maternity Hospitals.

The arrangement between the Bedlingtonshire U.D.C. and the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital continued in force, the Council making itself responsible in whole or in part for the fees for maintenance of necessitous cases sent to the hospital.

The following is a table of the various conditions for which patients from Bedlingtonshire were referred under the above arrangement.

Abortion.....	6
Delivery (a) Breech	6
(b) Instrumental	4
(c) Normal	15
Haemorrhage, A.P. and P.P.H.	8
Toxaemia	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Retained placenta	2
Ovarian Cyst	1
Version	1
Caesarian Section	1
Vesicular Mole	1
Pyelitis	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>50</u>

Sunray Clinic.

Sunray Clinics were held on Tuesday mornings at 9.30 and Friday afternoons at 2 p.m. of each week.

No. of attendances (children and infants) - 1,789

This clinic was carried on on the same lines as heretofore and in all 122 patients received treatment during the year, their age distribution being shown in the following table

Under 5 years	90
School children ...	<u>32</u>

122

Below is a table showing the nature of diseases treated, together with the results of treatment. Many under the heading "improved" were still undergoing treatment at the end of the year.

Disease.	Cured.	Improved.	Unlikely to benefit from further treatment.	Incomplete.	Total treated.
?Thyroid Deficiency.	-	1	-	-	1
Tracheitis	-	2	-	-	2
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	-	-	-	1	1
Adenitis	3	3	-	3	9
Pink Disease	2	2	-	1	5
Ocular diseases	-	-	-	1	1
Skin diseases	-	3	1	3	7
Chest (non T.B.)	6	6	-	4	16
Rickets	4	5	-	7	16
Debility	12	18	-	28	58
Anaemia	-	-	-	1	1
Asthma	-	1	-	-	1
?Coeliac disease	-	2	-	-	2
Talipes	-	2	-	-	2

Summary of certain information compiled by the Health Visitors.

No. of live births notified in Bedfordshire during 1944	M.293	F.266	559
No. of illegitimate births (included in above total)	M. 7	F. 7	14
No. of still births (not included in above)	M. 6	F. 8	14
No. of sets of twin births notified during the year			6
No. of births notified from Princess Mary Maternity Home			46
No. of births notified from other maternity homes			65

Visits.

First visits, births	524
Sub-visits under one year	740
To children between the ages of one and five years	1,672

Child Life Protection.

Public Health Act 1936, Sections 206 - 220.

The Health Visitors also acted as Child Protection Visitors.

No. of children below 9 years of age on the register at the end of the year - 2.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The public water supply for the district continues to be received from the Water Department of the Tynemouth Corporation. The supply has been ample and satisfactorily maintained. The quality is good, and is regularly tested by the Vendors. It has been free from contamination, the water is chlorinated previous to entering the Urban District.

For the purpose of distribution it has not been necessary to provide new water mains or extend those which are already existing.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The contents of the drainage and sewerage system all empty into the tidal waters of the River Blyth and River Wansbeck. The areas near the coast line empty direct into the sea. No extra drains and sewers have been laid or extended. In some lines of sewers extra manholes have been built chiefly for the purpose of cleansing.

Rivers & Streams.

No action has been necessary.

Closet Accommodation.

The whole of the district is served by the water carriage system except in very remote areas out of the reach of public sewers and in the latter cases the conservancy system is the method of disposal in use.

There have been two privy conversions to water closets, and two additional water closets erected together with urinal for private use providing extra accommodation.

Public Cleansing.

The removal of house refuse is carried out partly by direct labour and partly by contractors.

The intervals between the times of collection have been very regular. The dust bins are emptied at least twice each week, and where common ashpits are the receptacles in use, fortnightly cleansing is the method adopted.

The bulk of the refuse collected is disposed of within excavations caused by brickworks, and these are situated at Choppington and Bedlington Station. Other temporary and useful deposits exist within Stakeford District and land depressions situated within the area of East Sleekburn and Cambois.

These grounds of deposit are kept in a reasonable condition by Council Control.

The whole of the Cleansing has been carried out satisfactorily.

The salvage collection continues to be under the supervision of this Department. The method of collection is quite separate from the refuse collection. The system adopted is by individual collection.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The appended table provides the number and nature of inspections for various defects during the year.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

	No. of Inspections during year.	No. of defects or contraventions of bye-laws.	No. outstanding from previous year.	TOTAL	No. remedied after letter or interview.	No. of statutory Notes served.	Defects removed thereafter.	In process of being dealt with.
<u>HOUSING.</u> Structural Defects) Defective Foodstore) Dampness.) Overcrowding) Nuisances.)	188	94	2	96	85	-	-	11
<u>WATER SUPPLY.</u> Insufficient Unsatisfactory)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>DRAINAGE.</u> Insufficient Defective. Sanitary Conveniences) Insufficient or Defective.	- 76 49	- 37 41	- - -	- 37 41	- 37 41	- - -	- - -	- - -
Shops, Foodstores etc., Dairies, Cowshed & Milkshops. Slaughterhouse. Tents, Vans etc., Offensive Trades Factories. Keeping of Animals. Insanitary Ashpits & Recept. Ashpits improperly used. Offensive Accumulations. Smoke Nuisances.	201 208 412 4 2 11 13 74 2 21 3	- 7 - - 2 - - 3 1 9 3	- - - - - - - - - - -	- 7 - - 2 - - 3 74 1 9 3	- 7 - - 2 - - 3 74 1 9 3	- - - - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - - - -
TOTAL	1264	273	2	275	264	-	-	11

Summary of Repairs.

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>No. Repaired.</u>	<u>No. Renewed.</u>
Roofs and Ridges.	24	-
Chimney Stacks.	4	3
Spouting	4	16
Walling	3	-
Window Sashes & Frames	10	-
Doors and Frames.	12	-
Wall Plaster.	3	-
Ceilings.	14	8
Chimney Breasts.	2	-
Ranges and Fireplaces.	3	-
Water Services.	5	-
Defective Water Closets Services.	41	-
Dust Bins.	-	74
	<u>125</u>	<u>101</u>

Shops and Offices.

No action has been taken under this heading.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites used by civilians within the district.

Smoke Abatement.

It has been necessary to notify those responsible at each of the Pit Head Shower Baths so as to regulate as far as possible the emission and density of smoke produced at each of the boiler fires.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

An open air swimming bath is situated at Humford Mill. The water is received from the River Blyth which is continually cleansed by Chlorination. In addition there are also Pit Head Shower Baths existing at the Collieries in the vicinity of Bedlington, Stakeford and Cambois.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

- (1) The number of Council Houses infested. 7
Other houses infested 16
- (2) The method employed for freeing infested houses is by fumigation with Sulphur Dioxide following the general spraying with Insecticide.

- (3) Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.
- (4) There are no measures taken to prevent re-infestation unless an appeal is made by the occupier.
- (5) Frequent infestation of beetles has had attention, the occupiers being supplied with material for the disinfestation.

Schools.

The Sanitary arrangements and water supply of the schools continue to be satisfactory.

For the closet accommodation the water carriage system is established at all the schools and the supply of all water is direct from the Council Mains.

The Refuse Collection is carried out at regular intervals and the buildings are disinfected periodically.

SECTION D.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:-

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 94 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 188 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwellings Houses (Included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | Nil |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | Nil. |
| (3) | | Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 94 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or its Officers	83
---	----

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year:-

Sections (a), (b), (c) and (d), "NIL" returns have been received

(a) Number of new house erected during the year Nil

(b) As part of the Municipal Housing Scheme Nil.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are forty producers of milk within the area, one having left the district during the year.

The majority of these are Producers and Retailers. There are three producers of accredited milk and the remainder supply ordinary milk. Also there are six retailers of Pasteurised milk, one holding a Supplementary Licence. In addition one person is a retailer of Tuberculin Tested Milk. All the Designated Milk is supplied from outside the district. Approximate number of cows - 550.

The premises have been regularly visited and the conditions found satisfactory.

Sampling of Milk.

Forty five samples of milk have been submitted to the Laboratory for examination.

For Cleanliness.

RESULTS.

Methylene Blue Test:-

	36 instances	Satisfactory.
	2 "	4 hours reduction time.
	1 "	4½ hours reduction time.
	1 "	2½ hours reduction time.
Pasteurised	1 "	Satisfactory (64,000B)
B. Diphtheriae	4	(not found).
Total.	<u>45</u>	

Tuberculosis.

Two samples proved positive for Tuberculosis in Ordinary Milk.

Other two samples from Accredited Herds, one sample taken within the district and one out of the district also proved Positive. All the animals were dealt with by the Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Finally the herds were certified as Non-Tuberculosis.

"Improvements or Repairs".

Town Farm East Sleekburn. - Concrete approaches laid Meadowdale Farm. Steam Sterilizing Plant installed .

Meat Inspection.

The Slaughterhouse continues to be the premises owned by the Bedlington Co-operative Society Ltd. This method of Centralized slaughtering has proved very satisfactory during the whole of the period it has been operating, and has been a full time service.

Examination of Carcasses.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed and <u>Number inspected.</u>	1374	109	1	5,355	23
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
<u>Whole carcasses condemned.</u>	-	3	-	3	2
<u>Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned</u>	113	36	-	32	2
<u>Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis</u>	8.22	35.77	-	.65	17.39
<u>Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned.</u>	2	5	-	-	1
<u>Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.</u>	102	26	-	-	-
<u>Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.</u>	7.56	28.44	-	-	4.34

N.B. All the pigs slaughtered were owned by Local Cottagers. These were of the casualty type brought into the slaughter house, chiefly suffering from inflammatory conditions. All portions passed fit for food were taken over by the Ministry of Food.

Meat, Organs etc., Condemned and Surrendered as unfit for
Human Consumption.

Bovine Animals.

For Tuberculosis:--

Number of whole Carcasses -	7
" Lungs.	119
" Hearts.	19
" Heads and Tongues.	18
" Livers.	2
" Skirts.	2
" Tripes and Gut.	4

Disease other than Tuberculosis:--

Whole Carcasses:- Septic Mastitis, 2, Septicaemia, 1.

Heads and Tongues:- Tonsillar Ulcers, 6, Actinomycosis 2

Lungs:- Pleurisy 5, Abscesses 14, Pneumonia 1.

Echinococci 1, Local Melanosis 1.

Hearts: Pleurisy 5.

Livers:- Cirrhosis, 35. Distomatosis 31, Abscesses 24.

Bacterial Necrosis 2, Degenerate 2.

Angioma 1, Calcification 1.

Trimming (thorax) Pleurisy 2.

" (Abdomen) Peritonitis. 2.

Tripe and Gut: Peritonitis 2.

Udders:- Mastitis 17. Abscesses 2.

Weight of beef Condemned:- By Disease 5,292 lb.

By Bruising 111 lb. - By Bone Taint 98 lb.

Sheep.

Whole Carcasses:- Oedema 1, Odorous Red Braxy 1.

Moribund 1.

Heads:- Abscesses 3.

Plucks. Pleurisy 6, Abscesses 6, Cysts 2. Pneumonia 1.

Lungs:- Abscesses 3. Pleurisy 3, Parasites 4.

Livers:- Cirrhosis 4.

Weight of Mutton condemned:- By Disease 169 lb. - By Bruising 7 lb.

Swine.

Whole Carcasses:- Tuberculosis 1, Ill Bleeding 1.

Moribund 1.

Plucks:- Pleurisy 2.

Weight of Pork condemned:- By Disease 504 lb. By Bruising 7 lb.

Other Foods.

The following other foods examined and found to be unfit.
These were condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed.

Pork Luncheon Meat	62 tins.
Casserole Steak	17 tins.
Kam	12 tins
Chopped Ham.	10 tins.
Sausage Meat.	9 tins.
Spam	5 tins.
Brisket Beef.	3 tins.
Pudding Meat.	3 tins.
Prem.	1 tin.
Tongue.	1 tin.
Premier Pork	1 tin.
Beef Cereals.	1 tin.
Salmon	37 tins.
Pilchards.	23 tins.
Sardines.	6 tins.
Mackerel	1 tin
Jam	56 tins.
Marmalade.	4 tins.
Baked Beans.	51 tins.
Peas.	25 tins.
Plums.	14 tins.
Apples.	1 tin.
Gooseberries.	1 tin.
Milk.	262 tins.
Pickles.	8 tins.
Soups.	6 tins.
Salad Dressing.	4 tins.
Prunes.	225 lb.
Date	140 lb.
Raisins.	50 lb.
Oranges.	60 lb.
Biscuits.	50 lb.
Bacon.	220 lb.
Cooked Ham.	20 lb.
Sausage Meat.	37 lb.
Cheese.	25 lb.
Beef Loaf.	14 lb.
Butter	7½ lb.
Ginger Powder.	48 pkts.
Egg Powder.	75 pkts.
Cake Flour.	12 pkts.
Semolina.	15 pkts.
Mustermix.	15 pkts.
Dried Milk.	9 pkts.
Vinella Barley.	27 pkts.
Custard Powder.	3 pkts.

Shell Fish.

A few shell fish beds lie indiscriminately scattered within the mouth of the River Blyth, which chiefly consists of mussels and mostly exposed to contamination. Notices are posted prohibiting the collection of these shell fish, and collection has again been unknown during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided throughout the year at the Ashington Unit of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Urban District Council is a constituent.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	21	5	-
Diphtheria	85	76	7
Pneumonia	30	Unknown	8
Erysipelas	10	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	-
Dysentery (sonne)	1	1	-
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	1	-
Measles	144	-	-
Whooping Cough	44	-	-

Table Showing Analysis of Notified Cases of
Infectious Diseases under Age Groups.

	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & Over	Tot.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	12	2	3	1	1	-	-	21
Diphtheria	1	1	2	1	7	30	24	11	7	1	-	-	85
Pneumonia	2	-	1	2	1	5	-	4	4	5	4	2	30
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	3	-	10
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Dysentery (sonne)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Polio-myelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles.	11	12	11	16	12	77	4	1	-	-	-	-	144
Whooping Cough	4	12	4	5	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	44

Enteric Fevers.

No case of Typhoid or paratyphoid fever was notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

During the last nine months of the year Bedlington suffered an epidemic of Diphtheria which imposed on your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector a great deal of extra work and very considerable anxiety.

This epidemic, which was part of a much larger and widespread epidemic affecting the whole of the North East and part of the North West of England, was remarkable for the great severity of many of the cases and the large number of "healthy" carriers.

In all 85 cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year and of these five occurred in the first three months and 80 in the last nine months. The areas chiefly affected were Bedlington, Bedlington Station and, later on, Choppington.

The following table shows the numbers of cases notified in each month of the year, and also the numbers of Carriers detected.

	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Carriers.</u>
January	2	-
February	1	-
March	2	-
April	3	-
May	14	4
June	9	1
July	8	6
August	16	11
September	6	11
October	11	4
November	8	3
December	5	1
Totals..	<u>85</u>	<u>41</u>

It is now accepted that the chief agency in the spread of Diphtheria is the carrier who is an apparently healthy person having the Diphtheria germ in his nose or throat and who while unaffected himself, is capable of transmitting the germ to others who, if susceptible, will develop Diphtheria.

When Diphtheria breaks out, therefore, a search for carriers is always instituted and where the outbreak occurs in a school, a hospital, a works or other institution, i.e. in a relatively closed community with limited contacts, the search is considerably simplified. In this epidemic, however, the earliest cases occurred

in adolescents, over school-leaving age, who were working, who went to dances and cinemas and had numerous and unknown contacts. Later on the Bedlington Schools became affected but each almost equally so. Nevertheless, a carrier search was begun and persevered in over many months. In this connection I have to acknowledge with gratitude the great help given by Dr. Dewell, the Assistant School Medical Officer of the County Council. She was instrumental in detecting many of the carriers and in all, we discovered, between us, 41, of whom 38 were carrying the Gravis Type of Diphtheria Bacillus which was the type causing the epidemic.

As I have said many of the cases were very severe and it was frequently found that gravely ill patients had a history of only 24 hours' illness prior to admission to hospital.

There were seven deaths of which six occurred in non-immunised persons and one in a boy who had been inoculated more than three years previously. This last case was a boy who was in a very poor and neglected condition on admission and died after an illness of seven weeks.

This gives a death rate among the inoculated of 3.4% and among the uninoculated 10.7%

Another feature of this epidemic on which I must comment was the complete and rapid recovery made by most of the children who had been inoculated against Diphtheria, although on admission to hospital many appeared critically ill and indeed almost hopeless. It was noticed in many instances that, while convalescence was long and perilous and frequently complicated in the non-immunised, it was uninterrupted in the inoculated although at the outset both groups of cases had appeared equally ill. I thus became convinced from personal experience of the great value of Diphtheria inoculation even in persons who actually develop the disease.

All cases and carriers were ultimately freed from infection, although seven carriers required tonsillectomy before this result could be obtained.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Visits were paid to all schools in the Shire during the months of March, April, May and June to inoculate all children desiring to be done who had not been previously inoculated and also to re-inoculate some of the children who had been treated in the early part of the campaign, and whose parents had expressed a desire for them to be re-inoculated. During this round of visits 165 children completed the course of treatment.

Following on the occurrence of the epidemic it was decided to re-visit all schools in which cases of diphtheria had occurred. Consequently visits were paid to the schools at Bedlington, Netherton, Bedlington Station, and Choppington in the months of September and October. As a result of these visits a further 318 children received the complete course of inoculations.

At the end of the year the immunisation state of the child population was as follows:-

Under 5 years	40.55%
5 - 15 years	87.47%

Scarlet Fever.

This disease was less prevalent than in 1943, there being 21 cases notified. There were no deaths.

Measles.

There were 144 cases of this disease notified during 1944 as compared with 226 in 1943, and of these all except 5 were under 10 years of age, the majority occurring in the 5 - 10 years age group. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

There were 44 cases of whooping cough notified and all of these occurred in children below the age of 10 years. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia.

Notifications of this disease were only half those of the previous year and there were 8 deaths.

Defence (General) Regulations 1939, Scabies Order, 1941. No.33A.

The incidence of scabies showed a decrease during 1944, there being only 142 cases treated as compared with 300 in the previous year. Patients suffering from Scabies and Lice numbered 56 as compared with 93 and those suffering from Lice Only numbered 16 as compared with 54.

It is unquestionable that scabies was less prevalent, but in my opinion it is doubtful if the incidence of lice infestation has decreased to the same extent. The figures given would suggest that infestation is less frequent, but this may be due only to the fact that scabies, being less frequent, fewer people were examined, as most of the patients coming for treatment came only because they had scabies and the presence of lice was detected on routine examination .

It is of some interest to note that of a total of 126 patients from Bedlingtonshire suffering from infectious disease and admitted to the Ashington Hospital of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board during the year, 72 or 57% had a verminous condition of the head on admission. Of a total of 247 patients admitted to the Hospital from the five areas served by the Board, 127 or 51.4% were found to be infested with lice or nits on admission.

While these patients do not form an entirely unselected group and cannot be said to represent a true cross section of the population, the figures of infestation nevertheless indicate the existence of a disturbing and highly unsatisfactory state of affairs among certain sections of the community.

The cleansing station at Ashington continued to function during the year and clinics at which your Medical Officer attended were held twice weekly.

The following table shows the number of persons from Bedlingtonshire who were treated according to their ages and conditions from which they suffered.

	<u>Scabies Only.</u>		<u>Scabies & Lice.</u>		<u>Lice Only.</u>		<u>Scabies not discovered.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 yrs.	9	27	-	5	-	5	-	12
5 - 16 yrs.	54	36	18	26	2	9	1	7
Under 5 yrs.	6	10	2	5	-	-	3	3
	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>22</u>

Also appended is a table showing the total numbers treated from all the five districts included in the No.2 Medical Area.

	<u>Scabies Only.</u>		<u>Scabies & Lice.</u>		<u>Lice Only.</u>		<u>Scabies not discovered.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 yrs.	56	124	-	29	-	10	11	52
5 - 16 yrs.	144	112	33	67	2	15	17	12
Under 5 yrs.	43	36	5	11	1	-	7	10
	<u>243</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>74</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
5-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
15-	5	7	1	-	-	2	-	-
25-	2	5	-	-	2	-	-	-
35-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	11	18	7	1	2	3	-	2
Non-notified deaths - 3								
Total deaths - 7								

CANCER MORTALITY.

	Males					Total	Females					Total
	30	45	55	65			30	45	55	65		
Bladder	-	-	-	2	2		-	-	-	1	1	
Oesophagus	-	1	1	-	2		-	-	-	-	-	
Stomach	1	1	2	5	9		-	-	1	2	3	
Colon	-	-	-	1	1		-	-	1	5	6	
Jaw	-	-	-	1	1		-	-	-	-	-	
Breast	-	-	-	-	-		-	1	2	1	4	
Rectum	-	1	1	2	4		-	-	1	-	1	
Mediastinum	-	-	-	1	1		-	-	-	-	-	
Mouth	-	-	1	-	1		1	-	-	1	2	
Throat	-	-	-	1	1		-	-	-	-	-	
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-		1	-	1	1	3	
Prostate	-	-	1	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	
Skin	-	-	-	-	-		-	1	1	-	2	
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-		-	1	-	1	2	
Lung	1	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	
	2	3	6	13	24		2	3	7	12	24	
Sarcoma - Spine	1	female	37	yrs.								
Tibia	1	"	17	"								

Birth-rates, Civilian Death -rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1944. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census.	London Adm. County
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Live Births	17.6 /	20.3	20.9	15.0
Still "	0.50 /	0.64	0.61	0.42
Deaths				
All Causes	11.6 /	13.7	12.4	15.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 Year of age	46 /	52	44	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 Years of Age	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1
* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths. / Per 1,000 related births / Rates per 1,000 Total population.				
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Notifications:-				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57
Whooping Cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-				
(a) Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever	10.34	13.13	9.25	3.61
Puerperal Pyrexia				(/14.14
(b) Maternal Mortality - England and Wales:-				
No.140	No.141	No.147	Nos. 142-6	
Abortion	Abortion	Puerperal	148-150	
with Sepsis	without Sepsis	Infections	Other	
0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25	
Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45				
-England and Wales:-				
No.140 With Sepsis		No.141 Without Sepsis		
25		7		
/ Including Puerperal fever				

